

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1156
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
DECLINE IN FOREIGN TOURISTS ARRIVAL
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have recently announced some measures to boost domestic tourism following a sharp fall in foreign tourists' arrival in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government have identified the reasons for such a decline;
- (c) if so, whether the announced steps aimed at promoting domestic tourism is proposed to be extended to the other States including Maharashtra; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The decline in the number of foreign tourists to the country during the years 2001 and 2002 so far has been mainly due to the terrorist attack in USA in September 2001, Afghanistan war, attack on Indian Parliament, negative security perception on account of Gujarat incidents, tension along the Indo-Pak border, and the travel advisories issued by most major countries advising their nationals against visiting India.

(c) and (d): Various steps announced recently in the National Tourism Policy-2002 to promote domestic tourism are for the country as a whole including Maharashtra. To facilitate growth in domestic tourism, initiatives such as development of integrated circuits and destinations by converging all resources and expertise for development of these circuits as International Standard destinations have been planned. Steps like reduction in ATF taxes and duties for travelling to North East, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep have also been taken to promote tourism in these areas.